

Minutes – December 20, 2023
Arlington Disability Commission

Meeting opened at 4:10pm

Call to Order, Ground Rules, Welcome

Ground rules: Please don't use Zoom chat/messaging during the meeting, unless that is your primary way to participate in a meeting. Some commissioners have disabilities that make it difficult to deal with Zoom chat/messaging.

Roll Call

Members Present:

Janice Cagan-Teuber
G Carpenter
Kerrie Fallon
Ileana Gatica
Paul Raia
Michael Rademacher
Kari Sasportas

Members Absent:

Cynthia DeAngelis

Volunteers Present:

Rebecca Gruber

Staff Present:

ADA Coordinator: Tim Ross tross@town.arlington.ma.us

Guest:

Don Seltzer

Minutes: Reading/correcting/approval

Moved by Kari Sasportas, Seconded by Mike Rademacher to approve

Minutes as corrected

Approved by voice vote

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Reports:

Communication:

- Kari will draft guidelines for Social Media and Newsletter and organize communication and the newsletter
- Kerrie needs more clarity on content not discussed
- We need a standard to make sure nothing personal is posted
- We will discuss who has access and who is authorized to post to the town/commission website
- Grace will be assisted by Sara Forster

Newsletter:

- Grace requests that we forward anything in Arlington that is possibly interesting to Disability issues, any state agencies, or neighboring towns to her

Meeting Dates:

- Discussion regarding dates for calendar year 2024
- April's meeting occurs during school vacation week; do we maintain that meeting date or change it?
- Which summer month should we not hold our meeting? We tend to take August off.
- Janice Cagan-Teuber moved, Kari Sasportas seconded that we accept the 2024 meeting dates as listed on the agenda – Passed by voice vote

Meeting Time:

- Currently, Kari Sasportas, our chair, must take time from her work in order to addend and run the meetings
- There was discussion as to possibly changing the time from 4pm to 6pm, to 6pm to 8pm.
- Kari Sasportas moved and Janice Cagan-Teuber seconded that we change our meeting time to 6pm to 8pm to begin on January 17, 2024 – passed by voice vote

Clearing-House:

- Rebecca Gruber stated that she has difficulty finding resources
- It was suggested that the Commission could make a list of resources (state agencies, non-profit organizations, etc.
- Suggestion was to check the website.

2024 Priorities:

- Newsletter
- Transportation
- Town Day
- "Move Me" event, March 2024
 - Take the next month to think about potential activities/priorities

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MOD Grant updates:

- Decisions have been delayed until January. Hopefully, we will have a decision by our next meeting

Sub Committees:

- DEI – Language access project is moving along
- February and March, there will be training sessions offered to the public by the MCAD (Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination)

DPW:

- Nothing new
- Sufficient plows are contracted accessible playgrounds

CODA:

- There are many committees working on various issues
 - i.e. Accessible playgrounds
- Watertown is a mess for pedestrians
- There will a “walk-around” in Arlington, with an eye to handicapped parking and accessibility
- Lexington has a monthly book club for people who are visually impaired or blind

Correspondence

- We received contact from a woman who is unable to leave her house and is looking for a remote Arts & Crafts group
- Ileana will check with ARC Community Ed and the Arlington Council on the Arts,

Public Comment:

- Rebecca Gruber stated feeling sentimental about Paul Parravano;s passing
- All members agreed
- Don Seltzer discussed 1500 Mass Ave (a 3 story building) which is not ADA compliant, as is 885 Mass Ave
- Very serious issues of new buildings bypassing ADA compliance, then once they’re called on it, asking for waivers
- Arlington Redevelopment Board has been invited to meet with the Commission, but no date has been agreed upon
- Kerrie Fallon asked if the Commission should write a letter to the Redevelopment Board strongly requesting their attendance at a Commission meeting
- Parking design which had originally been HP, was changed so that there is now a step down to the entrance from that parking
- The new zoning needs to include a design review which includes accessibility

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Announcements

- Kerrie Fallon misses having a chance to connect prior to the meetings to get to know each other such as 10 minutes before the meetings
- If so, we need to make sure no agenda items are discussed so as not to violate the “open meetings” law
- Grace Carpenter announced that High Rock Church will hire people with Developmental Disabilities to work in their upcoming café
- There is a Fox Library survey regarding the “rebuild”

Adjournment

- Kari Sasportas moved to Adjourn, Paul Raia seconded
- Approved by voice vote
- Meeting Adjourned at 5:35pm
- Next meeting Wednesday December 20, 2023 at 4PM

Respectfully submitted, Janice Cagan-Teuber, Secretary